

*Global Literacy Invitation: Using the book Rain Player to introduce Ancient Maya Culture*

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| **Introduction** | |
| Students will explore the culture of the ancient Maya civilization using the picture book *Rain Player* by David Wisniewski as a launching point. | |
| **Indiana Standards Connections:**    5.1.1 Identify and describe early cultures and settlements that existed in North America prior to contact with Europeans.  5.RL.1 Read and comprehend a variety of literature within a range of complexity appropriate for grades 4-5.  5.RN.3.1 Apply knowledge of text features in multiple print and digital sources to locate information, gain meaning from a text or solve a problem.  5.RN.4.2 Combine information from several texts or digital sources on the same topic in order to demonstrate knowledge about the subject. | **Compelling Question(s):**    How did the ancient Maya live? What did they value? What was life like for them?  What were some of the most impressive scientific advancements of the maya? Why is it important that the Maya developed a writing system?  What are some features of Maya pyramids? What do you need consider to design your own pyramid?  Who were the gods of ancient Maya culture? How were Maya gods depicted in art? How did the gods influence the culture of the Maya?  What happened to the ancient Maya Civilization? |
| **Lesson Objectives:**    Students will understand how indigenous tribes had individual cultures rich in art, religion and science. Students will look at the Sun God Pendant from Guatemala to contribute to a discussion about Maya gods. Students will look at other artwork and artifacts to draw conclusions about Maya culture. | |
| **Materials** | |
| [Global Literacy invitation documents](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cpt80tTK7U99UO9OXQE7HWSO71xiixZmtJ7o_3vpfoQ/edit?usp=sharing)  Folders  *Rain Player* by David Wisniewski  Blocks for building tower  Paper, Crayons for name hieroglyphs | |
| **Learning Plan** | |
| **Activities**  Begin by asking students to think about how the first Americans arrived in North America. Invite them to discuss what they already know about indigenous tribes. Introduce the Maya civilianization by reading the story *Rain Player* out loud to the class. Tell students they will learn more about the Maya by completing a Global Literacy Invitation (GLI).  Over a series of several days, pairs of students will visit the GLI and will work their way through a series of activities. They will keep track of their work on graphic organizers and collect them in a folder to be submitted at the end.  See activities here: [Global Literacy invitation documents](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lYkHj7dL9gWU4J_arlo3K12o4v-hfUOs/view?usp=sharing) | |
| **Assessment Suggestions**    Any of the graphic organizers in the GLI could be collected and used as an assessment. | |
| **Extensions**  Could be used in tandem with a Global Literacy Invitation about Guatemala. | |